

"A poet's work is to name the unnameable,
to point at frauds, to take sides, start
arguments, shape the world, and stop it
going to sleep."
Salman Rushdie

"How do poems grow? They grow out of
your life."
Robert Penn Warren

"Each word bears its weight, so you have to
read my poems quite slowly."
Anne Stevenson

"If you read quickly to get through a poem
to what it means, you have missed the body
of the poem."
M. H. Abrams

"Even when poetry has a meaning, as it
usually has, it may be inadvisable to draw it
out... Perfect understanding will sometimes
almost extinguish pleasure."
A. E. Housman

"No poem is easily grasped; so why should
any reader expect fast results?"
John Barton

"Painting is silent poetry, and poetry is
painting that speaks."
Plutarch

"Poetry is a deal of joy and pain and
wonder, with a dash of the dictionary."
Khalil Gibran

"Poetry is an orphan of silence. The words
never quite equal the experience behind
them."
Charles Simic

"Poetry is language at its most distilled and
most powerful."
Rita Dove

"Poetry is just the evidence of life. If your
life is burning well, poetry is just the ash."
Leonard Cohen

"Poetry: the best words in the best order."
Samuel Taylor Coleridge